

# NPL Site Narrative for Vancouver Water Station #4 Contamination

## VANCOUVER WATER STATION #4 CONTAMINATION Vancouver, Washington

**Conditions at Proposal (July 29, 1991):** Vancouver Water Station #4 is located at 5th and Blandford Streets in Vancouver, Clark County, in the southwest portion of Washington. Water Station #4 is one of several stations that blend their output to supply drinking water to approximately 108,000 people. The State Department of Health sampled Water Station #4 under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) in 1988. The blended water samples, which represented water delivered to customers, contained tetrachloroethene (PCE) in excess of EPA's Maximum Contaminant Level established under SDWA. The station was taken out of service in October 1988. Subsequent sampling confirmed PCE contamination in the well field as well as nearby private wells, some supplying domestic water.

The city hired a consultant to investigate the nature, extent, and source of the contamination. The consultant conducted an extensive soil gas and ground water study in the area, including installing and sampling numerous monitoring wells. Although high levels of PCE were detected in some ground water samples from the monitoring wells, PCE was not detected in any soil samples collected from the monitoring well borings.

In addition to sampling, the consultant inventoried land use in the area, identified historical potential users of PCE, and identified many potential sources of the PCE in Water Station #4. While the sampling indicated that the source(s) could be dry cleaners in the area, they have not yet been confirmed as sources of the contamination.

**Status (October 1992):** EPA is considering various alternatives for the site.

For more information about the hazardous substances identified in this narrative summary, including general information regarding the effects of exposure to these substances on human health, please see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ToxFAQs. ATSDR ToxFAQs can be found on the Internet at [ATSDR - ToxFAQs](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq/index.asp) (<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq/index.asp>) or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.